

City Neighborhood Council
www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil
Monday, March 31, 2008
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
West Precinct Conference Room
810 Virginia Street

Chair: Chris Leman, cleman@oo.net, (206) 322-5463
Vice Chair: Pete Spalding, bayouwonder@comcast.net
Secretary: Dick Selin, arichardselin@comcast.net

DRAFT AGENDA:

6:30 Introductions, review/approval of agenda, approval/revision of Feb. 25 minutes (attached)
6:35 Roundtable on organizing neighborhood business districts (see background below)
7:55 Roundtable on organizing multilingual neighborhoods (see background below)
8:25 Reports of CNC's committees
Budget Committee
Neighborhood Planning Committee (see below on possible Comp Plan recommendation)
Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee and Citywide Review Team
Transportation Committee
CNC executive committee
8:45 Discussion (no action) on possible CNC letter on Seattle/suburbs transit bus funding (see below)
9:00 Adjourn

ATTACHMENT: Draft minutes from Feb. 25, 2008 CNC meeting.

UPCOMING:

These events are open to the public. CNC agendas and minutes are available at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil, which also has CNC's by-laws, work plan, contact information for district representatives, correspondence, and videos and other documents. An on-line meeting calendar that includes the district council meetings is <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/meetinglocations.htm>.

March 31 City Neighborhood Council meeting includes panels on neighborhood business and on organizing multilingual neighborhoods. The March 31 CNC meeting will begin with a panel of neighborhood business leaders discussing the challenges and benefits of organizing business districts and how best to involve them in district councils. Anyone who is involved with a neighborhood business district organization, is particularly urged to attend. Then CNC will host a roundtable on how neighborhoods can address language and translation barriers. Any neighborhoods that are face such challenges are particularly encouraged to come and participate. Please help us spread the word about both roundtables and encourage people to bring their experience and questions.

April 28 CNC meeting to feature transportation. SDOT director Grace Crunican and City Council Transportation Chair Jan Drago will be featured speakers at the April 28 CNC meeting. Topics to be covered include neighborhood parking, SR-99 downtown corridor planning, and transportation funding. Please let the CNC chair if there is another transportation topic you especially want covered at this meeting. CNC will also at the April 28 meeting take possible action on the letter regarding Seattle/suburbs bus funding allocation that has been proposed by its transportation committee (see draft below).

May 26 CNC meeting tentatively will focus on at-risk youth. Ideas are welcome (to the CNC chair) on speakers, format, and topic for CNC's May 26 meeting, which is tentatively to focus on what government and neighborhoods can do to help at-risk youth to happy, safe, productive lives.

CNC Executive Committee next meeting is Tuesday, April 8, 5-6 p.m. at the Fremont Neighborhood Service Center, 908 N. 34th Street. All are welcome to attend, or if you would like to participate by conference telephone, contact Chris Leman at (206) 322-5463 or cleman@oo.net.

CNC Budget Committee, chaired by Ron Boddie (Central District), rjboddie_2@msn.com. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 5 p.m. in room 370 of City Hall, 601 Fifth Avenue.

CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Review Committee, co-chaired by Robin Sizemore, robin.sizemore@comcast.net and Laine Ross, laine@ceoworkz.com. Does not meet in April or May during NMF applications review by CNC's Citywide Review Team.

CNC Neighborhood Planning Committee, chaired by Irene Wall (Northwest District), iwall@serv.net. Next meeting: Tues., April 22, 6:30 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia St.

CNC Transportation Committee, chaired by Ref Lindmark (Northwest District), refl@nwlink.com. Next meeting: Friday, April 18 (11:30 a.m. in room 4090 of the Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue).

Saturday, April 19 CNC workshop on neighborhood planning. On Saturday, April 19 (please note change), in cooperation with Councilmember Sally Clark, CNC will hold a workshop on neighborhood planning, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 in the Bertha Knight Landes Room of City Hall. Topics include: Why do neighborhood planning? How is neighborhood planning done (and how should it be done)? And what does success look like? Speakers will include many neighborhood leaders as well as Councilmember Clark, DON director Stella Chao, and former DON director Jim Diers. For questions, contact Irene Wall (iwall@serv.net). Background on CNC's past letters and its May 19, 2007 workshop on neighborhood planning can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>

BACKGROUND:

CNC executive committee's March 11 meeting with DON officials. CNC's executive committee and committee chairs met March 11 with DON Deputy Director Kimberlee Archie and Ted Divina, one of her deputies. Topics included (1) DON scheduling of public meetings to avoid conflicts with district councils and CNC; (2) District council web sites and support; (3) Request for results of the Oct. 2007 web survey that DON did of its own activities and those of the district councils and CNC; (4) Request for timely notice to and involvement of CNC and the district councils in development of DON policies on various topics; (5) Opportunities for DON to strengthen its assistance to help found or strengthen residential associations and business associations in neighborhoods that lack them or where they are inactive.

Comprehensive Plan amendments process and possible CNC letter. The City Council has received 21 proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, and will hold an initial public hearing on them Monday, March 31, 5 p.m. in the City Council chambers; written comments are also welcome. Although recommendations on the substance of the proposed amendments are welcome, the immediate issue in the next few weeks for the City Council is which, if any, of the amendments will not be advanced for full consideration in the coming months, a process that involves staff analysis, additional public hearings, and notice to the public. The Planning Commission has recommended against further consideration of most of the amendments that came from citizens. To view the amendments and find out about the hearing and the March 31 comment deadline, go to (http://www.seattle.gov/council/issues/compplan_amendments.htm).

At its March 18 meeting, CNC's neighborhood planning committee recommended that CNC endorse two amendments on neighborhood planning that had been submitted by the CNC chair. Amendment #16 would reword Goal NG-3 to encourage neighborhood plans throughout the city, not just in areas expected to take significant amounts of growth. Amendment #15 would reword policy N-3 to insert the following: "For those neighborhoods that wish to, the City is receptive to continuing the model of the 1990s under which it funds neighborhoods to conduct their neighborhood planning process under City contract and according to City guidelines."

Workshop on community-building. District councils are invited to co-sponsor a workshop on community-building (tentatively in May), modeled after the January 2007 event which featured public officials and citizen speakers, and breakout sessions. The 2007 workshop video is at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010713>. As several district councils have already done, please have your district council be co-sponsor, designate a volunteer to serve on the planning committee, and arrange for your district coordinator to allocate \$100-200 from your district's outreach fund. Pledges made last year expired with the end of the year, so need to be reaffirmed. Coordinator is Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish District Council) at judedw@comcast.net or 329-8801.

Proposed letter on Seattle/suburbs bus funds allocation. At its March 21 meeting, CNC's transportation committee proposed to CNC the following letter to the Seattle-area members of the King County Council. The letter will be briefly discussed at the March 31 CNC meeting, but the Chair will hold action until the April 28 CNC meeting to encourage district councils to review and if needed, revise it:

"Dear County Councilmember:

"For the past decade, new transit service dollars from the County's Transit sales tax have gone 80 percent to suburban areas (40 percent to south King County and 40 percent to north King County), with only 20 percent going to service within the City of Seattle. This is despite Seattle having the most transit ridership, and despite the fact that each dollar spent on Seattle service produces far more ridership increase than in the suburbs.

"As a group, Seattleites not only ride the bus more than do suburbanites; they also vote more consistently for transit funding ballot measures. Yet many of Seattle's Metro bus riders must stand in the aisles, or stand in the wind and rain at poorly sheltered bus stops as packed buses pass them by. This while buses are near-empty on many routes in suburban and exurban King County.

"As a proportion of King County's greenhouse gas production, motor vehicle emissions are about 50% and growing. With the new state law passed in March requiring reductions in vehicle miles traveled, the County can no longer afford to distribute its new transit dollars without regard to where they will do the most to reduce driving. It also cannot continue to give lowest priority in new transit funding to improving mobility and livability in our established cities.

"Please work to change the 20:40:40 ratio for distributing new service dollars into a more equitable ratio of 33-33-33, with Seattle receiving the same proportion as the North and South county areas. CNC is the citywide voice of the thirteen district councils, which like CNC are official Seattle advisory bodies. While we rarely address letters to the King County Council, this issue is of such importance to Seattle neighborhoods that you should hear from us directly."